

What is claimed is:

1. A method of downloading information from the network to a client where the client is connected to the network by a data line, comprising the following steps:
 - a) downloading of information from the network to the client
 - b) displaying of the information on the client's machine by a browse
 - c) automatically checking of the information displayed for the presence of links to other sets of information at a point no later than the display of the information in step b)
 - d) automatically assigning of priorities to the links identified
 - e) automatically downloading to the client's machine of the sets of information assigned to the links in accordance with the priorities of the sets of information.

2. The method according to claim 1, including the following further steps:
 - a) selecting and displaying on the client's machine a set of information from step e)
 - b) repeating steps c) to e) of the method for this set of information.
3. The method according to claim 1, including the steps of expanding the links to include priority information and the downloading the sets of information assigned to the links concerned in the sequence set by the priorities.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the assigning of a priority by expanding the links to include priority information is performed by the author of the set of information concerned.
5. The method according to claim 1, including the step of assigning priority to the links in a purely sequential order.
6. The method according to claim 5, including the step of sequentially assigning of the priorities to the links by at least one of the options "from centre", "top-down" and "bottom-up".

7. The method according to claim 1, including the steps of performing the assignment of priorities to the links by analysing user behaviour by means of a data mining program, storing all the sets of information downloaded from the network, or parts thereof, on the client's machine, using a data mining program for accessing this information and analysing it statistically, and creating a sequence of priorities for the links by using an add-on program or browse extension.

8. The method according to claim 1, including the step of allowing the user to set priority options by means of a user profile.

9. The method according to claim 8, including the step of providing the user with one or more of the following user-specifiable options:

purely sequential downloading of links from centre/top-down/bottom-up;

downloading of sets of information whose links include priorities down to a lowest priority which can be decided by the user;

following of a standard priority as a result of the entry of a code word;

assigning priorities as a result of analysis of user behaviour, set by means of the following options:

specification of a lowest probability to be specified by user;

calculation of changeover probability;

calculation of site-content probability.

10. The method according to claim 9, including the step of selecting between allowing the user profile to automatically assigns a priority to the options selected or permitting the assignment of the priority to be performed by the user.
11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information which is loaded in anticipation is stored in the client's RAM cache or hard-disk cache.
12. The method according to claim 1, wherein steps c) to e) are performed by an add-on program or browse extension, the add-on program being installed on the client and communicating with the browse via an interface.
13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the user profile is part of the browse extension or add-on program.

14. The method of downloading information from a network to a client where communications between the client and the network are handled via a server which has a data line to the client and to the network, comprising the following steps:
- a) downloading of information from the network to the server and displaying of the information on the client's machine by a browse
 - b) automatically checking the information represented in the server for the presence of links to other information at a point no later than the completion of the display of the information on the client's machine in step a)
 - c) automatically assigning in the server of priorities to the links identified
 - d) automatically downloading to the server of the sets of information assigned to the links in accordance with the priorities of the links.
15. The method according to claim 14, including the following further steps:
- f) selecting and displaying on the client's machine of information which was downloaded in anticipation in step d) and
 - g) automatically repeating of steps b) to d) of the method for this information.

16. The method according to claim 14, including the step of expanding the links to include priority information and downloading the sets of information assigned to the links concerned in the sequence set by the priorities.
17. The method according to claim 14, wherein the assignment of a priority by expanding the links to include priority information is performed by the author of the set of information concerned.
18. The method according to claim 14, including the step of assigning priority to the links found in a purely sequential order.
19. The method according to claim 18, including the step of sequentially assigning of the priorities to the links by at least one of the options "from centre", "top-down" and "bottom-up".
20. The method according to claim 14, including the steps of performing the assignment of priorities to the links found is performed by analysing user behaviour by means of a data mining program, storing all the information downloaded from the network, or parts thereof, on the client's machine using a data mining program accessing this information and creating a sequence of priorities for the links found.
21. The method according to claim 14, including the step of allowing the operator of the server to set priority options by means of a user profile.

22. The method according to claim 21, including the step of providing the user with one or more of the following user-specifiable options:

purely sequential downloading of links from centre/top-down/bottom-up;

downloading of sets of information whose links include priorities down to a lowest priority which can be decided by the user;

following of a standard priority as a result of the entry of a code word;

assigning of priorities as a result of analysis of user behaviour, set by means of the following options:

specification of a lowest probability to be specified by user;

calculation of changeover probability;

calculation of site-content probability.

23. The method according to claim 22, including the step of selecting between allowing the user profile to automatically assign a priority to the options or permitting the priority to be performed by the user.

24. A computer program on a computer useable medium for downloading information from the network to a client where the client is connected to the network by a data line, comprising:
- a) software for downloading of information from the network to the client
 - b) software for displaying of the information on the client's machine by a browse
 - c) software for automatically checking of the information displayed for the presence of links to other sets of information at a point no later than the display of the information in step b)
 - d) software for automatically assigning of priorities to the links identified
 - e) software for automatically downloading to the client's machine of the sets of information assigned to the links in accordance with the priorities of the sets of information.
25. The computer program according to claim 24, including:
- a) software for selecting and displaying on the client's machine a set of information from step e)
 - b) software for repeating steps c) to e) of the method for this set of information.

26. The computer program according to claim 24, including software expanding the links to include priority information and the downloading the sets of information assigned to the links concerned in the sequence set by the priorities.
27. The computer program according to claim 24, including software for assigning priority to the links in a purely sequential order.
28. The computer program according to claim 27, including software for sequentially assigning of the priorities to the links by at least one of the options "from centre", "top-down" and "bottom-up".
29. The computer program according to claim 24, including software for performing the assignment of priorities to the links by analysing user behaviour by means of a data mining program, storing all the sets of information downloaded from the network, or parts thereof, on the client's machine, using a data mining program for accessing this information and analysing it statistically, and creating a sequence of priorities for the links by using an add-on program or browse extension.
30. The according to claim 1, including the step of allowing the user to set priority options by means of a user profile.

31. The computer program according to claim 30, including software for providing the user with one or more of the following user-specifiable options:

purely sequential downloading of links from centre/top-down/bottom-up;

downloading of sets of information whose links include priorities down to a lowest priority which can be decided by the user;

following of a standard priority as a result of the entry of a code word;

assigning priorities as a result of analysis of user behaviour, set by means of the following options:

specification of a lowest probability to be specified by user;

calculation of changeover probability;

calculation of site-content probability.

32. The software according to claim 31, including software for selecting between allowing the user profile to automatically assigns a priority to the options selected or permitting the assignment of the priority to be performed by the user.